

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

010221

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. At about noon on 22 July 1953, two Soviet warships, each towing a target at a distance of about 55 meters, were sighted off Porkkala in the Gulf of Finland.

one vessel turned off to Porkkala, while the other disappeared toward Tallinn lightship in a rain squall.

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The two vessels were about 70 to 80 meters long and proceeded at a speed of about six or seven knots. They had a straight bow and a slightly rounded stern. They mounted two guns behind protective shields, one on the foredeck and one on a small pedestal on the fantail. They had square bridge superstructures; a mast with a crow's nest on the after section of the bridge; a searchlight platform below the look-out; and two smokestacks, one forward on a small structure just aft of the bridge, and one aft in front of a small mast near the stern, lower than the forward stack. The two vessels flew the Soviet naval ensign.

2. At about 0600 hours on 29 July 1953, a gray vessel of between 1,500 and 1,800 dwt, with a single smokestack and a straight bow, and four large minesweepers were sighted about four nautical miles west of the prescribed swept channel between Greifswalder Oie and Ruegen Island. The vessel's deck and bridge structures were at the end of two-thirds of the entire length of the vessel, giving the impression of a very short quarterdeck. High-placed antiaircraft guns of undetermined caliber were on the foredeck and fantail. The four large minesweepers, which followed the vessel in line astern, were single-stackers and carried one gun on the foredeck and one on the fantail. They altered formation from line astern to line abreast in pairs, on the port and starboard side of the vessel and, later, changed by fours from port quarter line to line abreast. They were followed at a distance of about two nautical miles by another vessel and a seagoing tugboat which did not participate in the formation exercises. The entire group proceeded at a speed of between eight and ten knots.

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3. At 0930 hours on 30 July 1953, three Soviet minesweepers of American YMS type were off Koserow on the Pomeranian coast. Three other YMS-type minesweepers were stopped in the water off Ueckeritz at 1100 hours on 30 July. On 31 July, two other YMS-type vessels were in the Bay of Swinemuende; they alternately stopped and slowly proceeded over distances of several hundred meters. Another three YMS-type vessels were off Koserow at 1430 hours on 31 July. On 3 August, six YMS-type vessels were in the Bay of Swinemuende. They steamed up and down between Koserow and Ahlbeck all day, forming groups of three which were abeam only a few meters apart, and proceeded at a speed of about five knots. The distance between the two groups was about three nautical miles.
4. At 2100 hours on 3 August, Very signals apparently fired by vessels were seen in the direction of Swinemuende. Two red lights together were immediately followed by two green lights, giving the impression that they were fired from double-barreled pistols. They were followed by about 10 white stars and six red stars which were fired during a period of about 15 minutes. [redacted] green lights moving away in a north-northwesterly direction which [redacted] were the starboard position lights of at least eight small vessels rolling heavily in the sea. On 4 and 5 August, another five YMS-type vessels were in the Bay of Swinemuende. They cruised between Ueckeritz and Koserow at slow speed. 25X1
5. At 2000 hours on 2 August, a SVERDLOV-class cruiser which was doing between 20 and 25 knots was near buoy 5 on swept channel 55.
6. At 0900 on 2 August, a SVERDLOV-class cruiser was near buoy 4 on swept channel 1. She proceeded at between 14 and 15 knots and, on passing buoy 4, altered course for the Belt. She carried the Soviet naval ensign on her mizzen mast with a long, red-and-white pennant under the flag. Most of her crew wore dungarees and was engaged in cleaning ship, washing deck, and scouring. Some sailors wore white trousers and dark jackets.
7. At about 0900 hours on 4 August, a Soviet warship manned with navy personnel entered Porkkala, coming from the Estonian coast. She was an unmarked drifter-type vessel of the kind built in East Germany after the war and was flying a green flag with hammer and sickle in the upper corner. Soviet minesweepers [redacted] also were in this area. They were T-301-type vessels. Another four large minesweepers were sighted [redacted] 25X1

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